capped in the decision of this case since His Highness happens to be a party".

President:—I don't think that arises in this discussion.

Mr T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—I beg to withdraw.

They must be independent to the core. To-day being the last, many of the Hon'ble Members of this side are seen absent and since the Government assured that only in exceptional cases they will make these appointments I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

The following resolution was considered withdrawn as the Mover was absent.

Mr. Paul P. Mampilly:—*This Council recommends to the Government that the practice of allowing the existing undergraduate clerks of the Huzur Secretariat to be superseded by the junior graduate clerks in the matter of promotions to the cadre of Superintendents be done away with".*

No 2. Cuts in the pay of Government Servants.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Sir, the resolution standing in my name runs thus:—"*This Council recommends to the Government to effect cuts in the pay of Government servants of the superior service at the following rates until the present economic depression is over. 5 per cent in the pay of those drawing up to Rs. 50 per month; 10 per cent in the pay of those drawing up to Rs. 150 per month; 15 per cent in the pay of those drawing up to Rs. 250 per month; 20 per cent in the pay of those drawing above Rs. 250 per month.*"

Sir, it is with feelings of a little diffidence that I am standing up before you for moving this resolution. But a sense of duty compels me all the more to press it and do my part by this resolution. It is admitted on all hands that the scales of pay obtained in our State are much higher than those obtained in other independent countries. I do not propose to go into the reasons of it or to discuss at length the reasons why the average pay of officers are generally higher than obtained in other countries. It may be due to the fact that the British Government were getting officers from outside and so they had to give them adequate and reasonable amount for making a living in a far off country and so they began the practice of giving high salaries to persons in service. When Indians were also begun to be drafted to the service and when they were found to do the work equally or even better than the foreigners they used to give them also the usual fat salaries. This may be a reason or it may not be the only reason. But it is not within the scope of this resolution to request the Government to reduce the pay of all the officers in proportion to the existing scale of pay obtained in other countries. My resolution stands upon an entirely independent footing and the reasons that promoted me to bring it is this.

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You will remember that during the last 8 or 10 years the pay of our officers had been raised on the simple ground that the value of the articles have considerably gone up, that the country is in a very prosperous condition and the officers are not in a condition to keep up their prestige and dignity with the small pay that is given to them especially after the War. When there was a boom in prices this cry arose. There was a persistent cry and an insistent cry on this matter and I remember during the first session of this Council, this Council itself was responsible for raising this question on behalf of the officers. Probably in pursuance of that, the pay of many of the officers was raised. Where are we now? We are, I beg to point out, at the opposite poles. What is the condition of the people in the country and what is the position of the officers? The income of every man except the Government servants who form, I think, a very small percentage only, has been reduced by at least 40 to 50 per cent as a result of the fall in prices of the principal products of the country upon which they depend for their income. It is by compelling these persons to pay to the Government treasuries their taxes etc., irrespective of their paying capacity that the fat salaries are given to the Government officers. It is to do away with that incongruous position that this resolution is tabled. There must be some proportion between the life of an average man and an officer. If we look into the present condition now there is absolutely no proportion and I can easily say without any fear of contradiction that any officer, even if the pay is reduced to some extent, can make a living without affecting their status or dignity.

I have carefully worded this resolution. I have graded the cut in the pay of officers and the maximum reduction that I propose is 20 per cent. I told you that the fall of the income of the ordinary man is about 50 per cent. I am only asking in the case of officers a maximum of 20 per cent. That cannot work any harm. I have also carefully graded the cut in order that it may work out more equitably. A cry may be raised that it will affect the poor officers of the State and it will create a great deal of heart-burning among them. But it will be seen that my resolution does not affect the pay of the officers who are not in the superior service. It affects only officers who are drawing a pay of Rs. 15 and upwards. A 5% cut in the pay of officers drawing 15 to 50 is very small considering the fall in the value of articles which they consume. I would submit that the fall in prices is at least by 50 per cent and so they will never be affected by this cut. In the same way the grading of the cut will equitably work out the scheme of this resolution. I am sure that the Government will come out and say that they are not prepared to accept the resolution. The other

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day when the resolution for a remission of tax was moved they said they were not able to balance their budget. They will, I am sure, now come and say that there is plenty of money in their coffers and that there is no necessity for a cut. This will be the argument that will be advanced this time. But I would respectfully ask them that the amounts they are able to save by effecting the cut in their pay may be utilised for the remission of the tax and for providing better facilities for transport and marketing of articles and better irrigation facilities in order to increase the productive capacity of the people which they say are very difficult to be carried out if a remission of the tax is made. I therefore submit that in view of the economic condition prevailing now I would appeal to all the Hon'ble Members of this Council to tell the Government to reduce their pay on the scale proposed in this resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.—സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. വലിയ വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദങ്ങളൊക്കെ നടത്തി സ്ഥാപിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരു പുരിയതത്വം ഈ പ്രമേയംമൂലം നിയമസഭയുടെ മുമ്പിൽ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു അനുകൂലിയ്ക്കുന്നവരുടെ ഭാരത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തിനാണ് ഞാൻ രണ്ടു വാക്കു സംസാരിയ്ക്കുവാനുദ്ദേശിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ നിയമസഭ തുടങ്ങിയകാലം മുതൽ ഒരു രൂപത്തിലല്ലെങ്കിലും മറെ പല രൂപങ്ങളിലായി, ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പറന്മാർ ഉപക്ഷേപങ്ങളും നിശ്ചയങ്ങളും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു പാസാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇതിന്റെ വിശദമായ വശങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒരു ദീർഘമായ പ്രസംഗം ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല എന്നുള്ള എന്റെ വാദത്തെ നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഇതിൽ ചില പ്രത്യേക നിരക്കുകൾ എടുത്തുകാണിക്കുവാൻ വലിയ പ്രമാണങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയുള്ള ഒരു വാദം അപ്പുറത്തുനിന്നും വന്നേക്കാമെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ "കരുവെട്ടു രണ്ടു കഷണം" എന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ ഈ വക സംഗതികൾക്കു ഒരു തോതു നിശ്ചയിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. ഏറ്റവും കൂടിയ ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു കൂടുതൽ ത്യാഗവും കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു കുറഞ്ഞ ത്യാഗവും വേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള തോതുകൾ കരുമിച്ചു ചേർത്തു ബഹുമാന്യപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗമെമ്പർ ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു നിശ്ചയം ഈ സഭയുടെ ആലോചനക്കു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുമാത്രം നിങ്ങൾ വിചാരിച്ചാൽ മതി. ഗവർമ്മൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കുറച്ചു് ഒരനുതാപത്തോടുകൂടി സഹിക്കുവാനും ആദരിക്കുവാനും കഴിവുള്ള ഒരു തോതാണ് ഇതിൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഉന്നു് ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രാബല്യത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരഭിപ്രായം ഇരുന്നൂറു ഉറുപ്പികയിൽ കൂടുതലായോ മുപ്പതുറുപ്പികയിൽ കുറവായോ ഉള്ള ഒരു ശമ്പളം ഈ കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തു് ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തവരാണു്. ഇന്നു് ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ വ്യക്തികളോ

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ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ കുറ്റാരോപിതരുള്ള ആളുകളോ മാത്രം പറയുന്ന ഒരഭിപ്രായമല്ല. ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പാത്രങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രം എഴുതിക്കാണണമെന്നുമല്ല. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായം പലവേഷങ്ങളിലും വളരെ ശക്തിയായി പ്രതിവാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. എന്റെ അറിവിൽ നൂറിനുമേൽ പൊതുയോഗങ്ങളും ഈ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും കൂടി ഈ തത്വമനുസരിച്ചുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങളും പാസാക്കീട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇരുപതിനായിരവും മുപ്പതിനായിരവും ആളുകളും കൂടിയിട്ടുള്ള ചിലയോഗങ്ങളും തന്നെ നിശ്ചയം പാസാക്കിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ശങ്കരമേനോൻ.—ഇരുപതിനായിരവും മുപ്പതിനായിരവും ആളുകളും കൂടിയ യോഗങ്ങളും എവിടെയായിരുന്നു?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.—അങ്ങിങ്ങായുള്ള യോഗങ്ങളും പലേടങ്ങളിലുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കൊച്ചിയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു, പെരിങ്ങോട്ടുകരയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു, ചെറായിയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു, ഞാറക്കൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇനിയുംവേണോ?

അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് ഏറ്റവും ശക്തിയായ നിലയിൽ, ജനതാമദ്ധ്യത്തിലുള്ള പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായമനുസരിച്ചു്, അങ്ങേ അറ്റംവരെ പോകാത്തതരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു നിയമമനുസരിച്ചു്, സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു നിശ്ചയമാണു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഊരകം മെമ്പർ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ സമർത്ഥിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു തത്വം മനസ്സിലാക്കി നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും ഇതിനെ സഹർഷം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry that I find myself in the unhappy position of being constrained to oppose the resolution in the form in which it is brought and for the reasons specifically mentioned for the cut. To my thinking any attempt to cut the salaries of persons drawing a modest sum of Rs. 100 or below per mensem is an outrageous attempt. The resolution as brought takes in the case of persons drawing a pay of even Rs. 20 to 50. The mover of the resolution aims at a cut of 5 per cent in such cases. That is something unbearable from the standpoint of such officers with all the commitments they have made. The resolution is again rested on the ground that the cut is necessary in view of the economic depression. According to me the economic depression has nothing to do with the pay of the officers substantially. If it is meant that the purchasing power of the rupee has increased, I find that the purchasing power of the rupee is increased mainly in one commodity only namely that which is required for consumption, rice or paddy. In all the other articles there is substantially no fall in the prices and therefore any cut in the salaries of these moderately paid men will affect them.

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I am entirely for a cut in the salaries of persons drawing munificent sums from the Government, but not on the ground of economic depression but on the ground of the hugeness of the amount they draw and for want of necessity for such a pay. In the case of the high paid officers of the executive even if this cut is accepted by the Government it works out only a reduction of Rs. 160 a month. I refer to officers who are drawing Rs. 800 a month. Even if this cut is introduced, it takes away only a sum of Rs. 160 leaving to them a balance of Rs. 640 every month. To my thinking in a small State like Cochin there is no justification for any officer of any department to draw anything more than Rs. 600 which will work out Rs. 20 per day. I will rest the case for a salary cut not upon economic depression but on the ground I have just now mentioned. In the case of the officers of the judiciary and that especially of the highest tribunal probably there may be justification for giving the pay that is now given to them, but not so in the case of other Departmental heads who are drawing such huge amounts. But since the resolution is worded in such a way as to affect the pay of persons who draw very small amounts and as the resolution as it now stands does not affect the pay of the higher grade officers to the extent to which it ought to be, I am constrained to oppose the Resolution.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Sir, on behalf of the Government I have to oppose the Resolution. Sir, it is always delicate for a Departmental head to advance reasons for upholding his pay. Yesterday we have been hearing from the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur that efficiency of service requires high wages.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—I was quoting it in connection with the labourers in the Factories.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—We are labouring in another sphere. The age long maxim "Efficiency of services requires high wages" is applicable to us also. It is not correct to say that Government servants are being given fat salaries. Their pay was fixed long before. Their responsibility and sphere of work have been considerably enlarged without their salaries being raised at the present moment. But these are all extraneous considerations to the question in hand. The point that I wish to emphasise is that on account of the economic depresssion the Government had as a matter of fact in the year 1108 effected a cut in the salaries of the Government servants and it existed throughout the whole year. In the year 1109 it was after very mature consideration that the Government thought that the cut could be restored. Since then the Hon. Members would remember that the Government have introduced the income tax which by itself has affected considerably the salaries of Government. Those whose annual salaries amount

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to Rupees two thousand or above are liable to pay income tax. It may not be that it works up to the extent which the honourable mover wants; but it does substantially affect the pay of the Government servants. This much will readily be conceded by the House. My submission is that in the face of this drain upon the salaries of Government servants the House would certainly appreciate the position that no further cut need be effected upon their salaries so long as they are liable to pay income tax. That, Sir, is the position which the Government takes up and upon that ground the Government have to oppose the resolution.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Sir, I have not much to say because the fundamental principle upon which I based this resolution has not been controverted either by the Leader of the House or the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu. It is mainly on the ground that the value of the rupee at the time when the pay was raised, i. e. in 1102 or 1103 was different from the value of the rupee now that I based my resolution. What you were able to get with one rupee then you are able to get with half a rupee now. That is the fundamental ground upon which I based my resolution. I am afraid that the Hon. Member for Mulakunnathukavu is labouring under a mistake that it will affect the poorly paid officers. I thought that the argument would be the other way because all the articles that are generally consumed by the persons who draw a pay of Rs. 15 are articles for which the value has gone down considerably. It is not only the price of rice and vegetables that has gone down; the price of cloth and other things have also gone down except perhaps the school fees. Probably, I thought, that in the case of high paid officers the argument would be advanced on the ground that the price of petrol and motor cars has not gone down and so they are not able to live up to the standard they are expected to live. That argument will not stand in the way of low paid officers. The value of the rupee a few years ago and the value of the rupee at present is entirely different. The purchasing power of the rupee is much more now. I am sure the low paid officers will not be affected in the least by a reduction in their pay.

The only argument raised by the Hon. the Leader of the House is that they have been affected to a certain extent by the levy of the income tax. I want to submit that the income tax affects not only the Government servants but also other persons who earn an income of 2,000 rupees or more in a year. It is not a special case. I therefore submit that absolutely no case has been made out by those who opposed my resolution for not effecting this cut. If there has been only a difference in form of this resolution as the Hon. Member for Mulakunnathukavu remarked, he could have amended

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the resolution as he wanted. But he did not think it necessary. In these circumstances I am constrained to ask for a verdict of this House in this matter. I therefore press the resolution to a division.

Resolution put and negatived.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—A poll, Sir.

The House divided—Ayes 10, Noes 16 and Neutrals 4.

Ayes.

1. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.	6. Mr. Paul Mampilli.
2. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.	7. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
3. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.	8. Mr. P. Raman Menon.
4. Mr. T. K. Nayar.	9. Dr. A. R. Menon.
5. Mr. K. T. Mathew.	10. Dr. K. Sankara Menon.

Noes.

1. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.	9. Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.
2. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.	10. Rama Varmha Tampuran.
3. Mr. M. A. Chakko.	11. Mr. M. K. Raman.
4. Mr. M. P. Cherian.	12. Mr. P. V. Raphael.
5. Mr. M. Krishna Menon.	13. Mr. A. Sankara Menon.
6. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.	14. Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.
7. Mr. C. J. Mathew.	15. Mrs. Josephine Swaris.
8. Mr. I. N. Menon.	16. Mr. Thomas Manjuran.

Neutrals.

1. Mr. K. Ayyappan.	3. Mr. S. S. Koder.
2. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.	4. Mr. K. P. Vallon.

No. 3. Toll-gates on Roads constructed by Panchayats.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon:—Sir, I move the following resolution standing in my name:—"*This Council recommends to the Government that no toll-gates should be established on roads constructed by Panchayats as such levies are not conducive to the free surrender of lands for construction of roads.*" I beg to submit that the resolution is self-explanatory as I have assigned the reason also for the motion I have brought.

In this connection I may at once bring to the notice of the House that the law which regulate the fixing of toll-gates is as vague as possible and it gives the power to the Dewan to establish toll-gates wherever he thinks it desirable. As to the conditions which might influence the decision of the Diwan there is nothing said in the Regulation. All that section 3 of the Regulation says is that he has the power to fix toll-gates wherever he finds it necessary. As a matter of principle I beg to submit that though it is a prerogative of

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